

Severe Weather Product Reference Guide for North Texas

National Weather Service
Weather Forecast Office
Fort Worth/Dallas, TX

www.weather.gov/fortworth

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National Weather Service
Fort Worth/Dallas, Texas

Severe Weather Product Guide

January 2009

To our Partners and Customers:

With the turning of a new year, the time has come to begin preparing for the 2009 severe weather season. While 2008 did not have the flooding we saw in 2007, the 2008 storm season brought significant impacts to our area. Significant tornadoes, floods, tropical cyclones, damaging hail pounded the area. Each of these events posed a threat to life and property along their paths.

Although the casualties and property damage was significant, the losses undoubtedly would have been greater had it not been for the severe weather awareness and warning system. Preparedness activities conducted by the National Weather Service, along with our local Emergency Management and media partners, gave north Texans information on how to protect themselves and their families. In addition, our teamwork in disseminating warning information gave people precious time to move into shelter and protect themselves.

We must not assume, however, that our preparedness job is complete. The coming severe weather season will undoubtedly bring a new set of storms, threats, and challenges to our preparedness and warning system. The continued growth in our area, while a boost to our economy, also means an influx of people who perhaps are unfamiliar with the hazards of severe weather. We will again be relying on your cooperation to help spread the severe weather preparedness message across all of north and north-central Texas.

This guide contains basic information on all of the storm-related products issued by the Fort Worth National Weather Service Office. If you are a member of the media, an emergency management official, a safety committee member, or a weather-sensitive customer, these materials should assist in developing your hazardous weather campaign. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at the addresses shown on the back page of this kit. Thank you again for your cooperation as we move into this hazardous time of year.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Woodall
Warning Coordination Meteorologist

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GETTING THE WORD

One of the most important parts of the severe weather warning system is communications. In order for media outlets or the public to broadcast or respond correctly to a severe weather threat, we must be aware of the threat. Unfortunately, communications is typically the weakest link in the weather information chain. When weather disasters with significant loss of life occur, they often are related to a breakdown in the warning dissemination system.

Fortunately, in north Texas we have several options for receiving weather information. As a commercial media outlet, you are an important partner in this process. Viewers, listeners, or readers will turn to you for preparedness information. In the case of the electronic media, people will also rely on you for the latest storm updates. Three sources for your weather information include NOAA Weather Radio, EMWIN, and the NWS Fort Worth website.

NOAA WEATHER RADIO

If you are in broadcast range, NOAA Weather Radio is the best way to receive information from the National Weather Service. Weather Radio is a 24-hour, continuous broadcast of weather information which originates directly from our forecast office in Fort Worth. We currently provide programming for 13 Weather Radio transmitters across our forecast area. Whenever we issue a watch or warning for the listening area of a transmitter, special alarm codes are generated and sent with the severe weather information. These codes in turn activate alarms on Weather Radio receivers in the threatened area. Newer models of Weather Radio receivers have an alarm feature which will activate only when watches or warnings are issued for user-selected counties. Information on Weather Radio is available online at <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/radio.html>

EMWIN

The Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN) is another means of receiving NWS products. EMWIN is a nationwide satellite-based system which broadcasts watches, warnings, forecasts, observations, and summaries from NWS offices. EMWIN requires a satellite dish, a signal demodulator, display software, and a Pentium-class PC. The display software features alarming and printing capabilities when specific products are received. Several vendors sell pre-packaged units, including the dish, demodulator, and software. Once the receiving station is established, there are no recurring costs for the data. For more information on EMWIN, point your web browser to <http://iwin.nws.noaa.gov/emwin/index.htm>

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NWS FORT WORTH WEBSITE

The NWS office in Fort Worth maintains a website with the latest observations and forecast information. Information on the website includes:

- Current conditions from the nearest official observation site
- Basic 7-day weather forecasts
- Weather forecasts in graphical and tabular form
- Short-term forecasts if active weather is in the area
- Hazardous weather outlooks
- Watches, warnings, and updating statements if severe storms are in the area
- Radar and satellite pictures
- Weather preparedness and safety information
- Climatological data

To reach our website, point your browser to:

<http://www.weather.gov/fortworth>

and the main page will load. The main page features a county map which is color-coded to reflect any watches, warnings, or other hazardous weather products in effect. Click on your county and the 7-day forecast will appear, along with the local observation, links to the radar and satellite pictures, hazardous weather outlook, and any watches or warnings in effect for your county.

Underneath the radar and satellite thumbnails, a number of links for detailed information will appear. These links will give you access to hourly forecast data in tabular and graphical form, our forecast discussions, forecast matrices, and other detailed information.

From our main page, one can also access the detailed tabular and graphical forecasts. Click on the “forecasts” links in the left-hand margin to view these new products.

To view all of the hazardous weather products we have issued, click on the “Current Hazards – North Texas” link from the main page’s left hand margin. This will take you to a page with links to the latest flash flood, tornado, severe thunderstorm, warning decision information, and local storm reports.

Our preparedness, safety, radar, and climatological data are also available from the links on the left-hand side of the page.

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NWS SEVERE WEATHER PRODUCTS

NATIONAL CONVECTIVE OUTLOOKS

DEFINITION

The Day-1 Convective Outlook and 2nd and 3rd Day Severe Weather Outlook are technical guidance products issued by Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma. The outlooks show the region(s) in the country where there is a risk of thunderstorms. The levels of risk range from general, non-severe, thunderstorms to high risk where widespread severe storms and tornados are expected.

Slight risk

Severe thunderstorms are expected; the severe storms may not have a mesoscale organization or may be isolated in areal extent. A slight risk generally implies that severe weather events are expected to be isolated or localized.

Moderate risk

Severe thunderstorms are expected and are anticipated to be more organized on the mesoscale. They will be more numerous or widespread than in the SLIGHT category. The potential for personal injury and/or significant property damage is enhanced. A moderate risk indicates the possibility of a significant severe weather episode.

High risk

Severe thunderstorms are expected and are anticipated to be widespread. A dangerous situation exists with the strong potential for killer tornadoes, devastating windstorms, and widespread property damage. A high risk is rare and implies the possibility of a major severe weather outbreak.

Day 1 Outlook (SWODY1)

This outlook outlines areas in the continental United States where severe thunderstorms may develop during the next 6 to 30 hours. It is issued 5 times daily.

Day 2 and Day 3 Outlooks (SWODY2, SWODY3)

The day 2 outlook outlines areas in the continental U.S. where severe thunderstorms may develop during the 24 to 48 hour time period. It is issued twice daily. The day 3 outlook is the same, but for the 48 to 72 hour time period. It is issued once daily.

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NORTH TEXAS HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK (WMO ID: FLUS44 KFWD)

The Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO) is a daily discussion of hazardous weather threats. While the Storm Prediction Center's Convective Outlook is a national product, the HWO is written by the Fort Worth forecast office and concentrates on north and central Texas. The HWO is issued at approximately 6:00 AM, Noon, and 3:30 PM and outlines areas which may be threatened by hazardous weather. The HWO includes a detailed "day one" discussion, and an outlook for the following seven days. The HWO discusses not only severe thunderstorm and flash flood threats, but also potential impacts from winter weather, high wind, excessive heat, fire weather, and other potentially dangerous weather conditions.

SAMPLE HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK

HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORT WORTH TX
615 AM CST THU MAR 1 2007

THIS HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK IS FOR NORTH TEXAS.

.DAY ONE...

THERE IS A SLIGHT RISK OF SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS ACROSS EASTERN PORTIONS OF NORTH TEXAS THIS AFTERNOON AND TONIGHT. THE RISK AREA IS ALONG AND EAST OF A LINE FROM TEMPLE...TO KAUFMAN...TO BONHAM. STORMS IN THE RISK AREA MAY PRODUCE HAIL TO QUARTER SIZE...AND WIND GUSTS TO 60 MPH.

EARLY THIS MORNING...WARM MOIST AIR WAS MOVING INTO NORTH TEXAS FROM THE SOUTH. A COLD FRONT OVER CENTRAL OKLAHOMA WILL MOVE INTO NORTH TEXAS BY LATE AFTERNOON. THUNDERSTORMS ARE EXPECTED TO DEVELOP ALONG AND AHEAD OF THE COLD FRONT...WITH A FEW OF THESE STORMS BECOMING SEVERE.

.DAYS TWO THROUGH SEVEN...

ANOTHER UPPER LEVEL STORM SYSTEM AND COLD FRONT WILL MOVE ACROSS NORTH TEXAS ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT AND THURSDAY. THIS WILL BRING ANOTHER CHANCE OF THUNDERSTORMS TO THE AREA.

.SPOTTER CALL TO ACTION STATEMENT...

LIMITED SPOTTER ACTIVATION MAY BE REQUIRED IN THE RISK AREA BY 200 PM.

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TORNADO/SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WATCH (WMO ID: WWUS20 KWNS)

DEFINITION

A severe local storm watch, issued by the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, OK, is used when the risk of a hazardous weather (severe thunderstorms and/or tornados) has increased significantly, but its occurrence, location, and/or timing is still uncertain. It is intended to provide enough lead time so that those who need to set their plans in motion can do so. Each watch is described roughly by a rectangle (example - Either side of a line from Tulsa, OK to Columbia, MO) or parallelogram (North-South or East-West of a line...) with an average area 25,000 square miles. The list of counties included in a watch area is given in the [Watch Outline Update](#) product issued by the S.P.C., or in the [Watch County Notification](#) product issued by our office.

Reasonable effort is made to have each public watch independent of any previously issued watch. However, subsequent severe storm watches that overlap existing watch areas do not alter the valid period of the earlier watch, except when specifically stated in the new issuance. Watch anchor points lie within the watch area and distances from reference points are given to the nearest 5 statute miles. Also included is...

- * Other watch information that identifies any watches in the same geographical area that are being replaced or canceled by this new watch,
- * hail size (in inches, except in tornado watches associated with hurricanes),
- * turbulence,
- * maximum surface wind gusts in MPH (and in knots in the Discussion section),
- * maximum height of thunderstorm tops (in hundreds of feet),
- * estimated direction and speed of thunderstorm cell movement. (The format is "Mean Wind Vector DDDFF," where DDD is the direction the storm is moving FROM (to the nearest 5E) and FF the wind speed to the nearest 5 knots.), and
- * a discussion of the meteorological reasoning (parameters and factors) that support the watch issuance and forecast for severe weather.

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WATCH OUTLINE UPDATE (WMO ID: WOUS64 KWNS)

Definition

A listing of all counties (and adjacent coastal areas) included in a convective watch area. Cities or well known geographic landmarks within a state may be included. The Storm Prediction Center will coordinate with local Weather Forecast Offices regarding the inclusion or exclusion of specific counties. The Watch Outline Update product is updated once an hour. Counties are cleared from convective watch areas through issuance of the Watch County Notification messages from forecast offices.

SAMPLE WATCH OUTLINE UPDATE

WOUS64 KWNS
WOU5

TORNADO WATCH OUTLINE FOR WT 185
NWS STORM PREDICTION CENTER NORMAN OK
540 PM CDT SAT MAR 3 2006

TORNADO WATCH 185 IS IN EFFECT UNTIL 900 PM CST
FOR THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

TXC139-147-231-257-349-397-037-063-067-119-159-183-
203-213-223-277-315-343-365-379-387-401-423-449-459-
467-499-040300-

TX
.TEXAS COUNTIES INCLUDED ARE

BOWIE	CAMP	CASS	DELTA
ELLIS	FANNIN	FRANKLIN	GREGG
HARRISON	HENDERSON	HOPKINS	HUNT
KAUFMAN	LAMAR	MARION	MORRIS
NAVARRO	PANOLA	RAINS	RED RIVER
ROCKWALL	RUSK	SMITH	TITUS
UPSHUR	VAN ZANDT	WOOD	

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WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION (WMO ID: WWUS64 KFWD)

The Watch County Notification message is issued by local Weather Forecast Offices to indicate which counties remain in or have been cleared from a convective watch area. The Watch County Notification product is issued shortly after the initial watch issuance from the Storm Prediction Center. Updated notifications will be issued periodically through the valid time of the watch as counties are cleared from the watch area. Unlike the SPC watch outline product, the Watch County Notification will describe only the counties within the local forecast office's warning area of responsibility.

SAMPLE WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION

WWUS64 KFWD
WCNFWD

WATCH COUNTY NOTIFICATION FOR WATCH 185
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORT WORTH TX
655 PM CDT SAT APR 3 2006

TXC139-147-231-257-349-397-
/O.CAN.KFWD.TO.A.0185.000000T0000Z-060404T0130Z/

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS CLEARED A PORTION OF TORNADO WATCH 185.
AREAS CLEARED FROM THE TORNADO WATCH INCLUDE

IN TEXAS THIS INCLUDES 4 COUNTIES...
IN NORTHEAST TEXAS

FANNIN	ELLIS	KAUFMAN	ROCKWALL
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TXC203-213-223-277-315-343-365-379-387-401-040300-
/O.CON.KFWD.TO.A.0185.000000T0000Z-060404T0300Z/

TORNADO WATCH 185 REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 1000 PM CDT FOR THE FOLLOWING AREAS
IN TEXAS THIS INCLUDES 8 COUNTIES...

IN NORTH TEXAS...

DELTA	HENDERSON	HOPKINS	HUNT
LAMAR	NAVARRO	RAINS	VAN ZANDT

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SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING (WMO ID: WUUS54 KFWD)

DEFINITION

A Severe Thunderstorm Warning is a product issued by the National Weather Service when a severe thunderstorm is occurring, is imminent, or has a high probability of occurring. A severe thunderstorm is a thunderstorm that produces a tornado, wind gusts of at least 58 mph (50 knots), and/or hail at least 3/4" in diameter. The warning contains...

- * Portions of the county threatened by the severe thunderstorm.
- * Warning expiration time.
- * Location and direction of storm movement.
- * Locations in the path of the storm.
- * Additional information and/or safety call-to-action statement(s).

The National Weather Service has shifted to a "storm-based" warning philosophy. We issue warnings for as small an area as possible, highlighting only those areas at risk from the storm. Occasionally, counties will be under more than one warning if severe storms are in separate portions of the counties.

SAMPLE SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING

WUUS4 KFWD 290044
SVRFTW
TXCO27-290145-

BULLETIN - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED
SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORT WORTH TX
643 PM CST MON MAR 28 2006

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN FORT WORTH HAS ISSUED A

* SEVERE THUNDERSTORM WARNING FOR...
WESTERN BELL COUNTY IN NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS

* UNTIL 745 PM CST

* AT 643 PM CST...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE METEOROLOGISTS DETECTED A
LARGE SEVERE THUNDERSTORM 8 MILES SOUTHWEST OF KILLEEN...MOVING
EAST AT 20 MPH. HAIL TO GOLFBALL SIZE AND WINDS OF 60 MPH ARE LIKELY.

* LOCATIONS IN THE WARNING INCLUDE SALADO...NOLANVILLE...KILLEEN AND
HARKER HEIGHTS

A TORNADO WATCH ALSO REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 1000 PM CST TUESDAY
EVENING FOR NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS.

LAT ... LON 3106 9789 3092 9781 3089 9750 3123 9751
TIME...MOT...LOC 0043Z 260DEG 16KT 3094 9787

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TORNADO WARNING (WMO ID: WFUS54 KFWD)

DEFINITION

A Tornado Warning is a product issued by the National Weather Service when a tornado is occurring, is imminent, or has a high probability of occurring. A tornado is a violently rotating column of air, attached to a cumulonimbus, with circulation reaching the ground. It nearly always starts as a funnel cloud and may be accompanied by a loud roaring noise. On a local scale, it is the most destructive of all atmospheric phenomena. The tornado warning contains...

- * Portions of the county threatened by the severe weather event.
- * Warning expiration time.
- * Location and direction of storm movement.
- * Locations in the path of the storm.
- * Additional information and/or safety call-to-action statement(s).

SAMPLE TORNADO WARNING

WFUS54 KFWD 290012
TORFTW
TXC439-290045-

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED
TORNADO WARNING
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORT WORTH TX
610 PM CST MON MAR 28 2006

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN FORT WORTH HAS ISSUED A

- * TORNADO WARNING FOR...
NORTHERN TARRANT COUNTY IN NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS
- * UNTIL 645 PM CST
- * AT 610 PM CST...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE METEOROLOGISTS DETECTED
A DEVELOPING TORNADO 5 MILES WEST OF MEACHAM FIELD MOVING EAST
AT 20 MPH.
- * LOCATIONS IN THE WARNING INCLUDE NORTH FORT WORTH...ESPECIALLY
ALONG NORTH LOOP 820 AREA FROM MEACHAM FIELD TO THE MID CITIES.

FOR YOUR PROTECTION...MOVE INSIDE A BASEMENT. IF NO BASEMENT IS
AVAILABLE...TAKE COVER IN AN INTERIOR ROOM ON THE LOWEST FLOOR OF YOUR HOME
OR OFFICE. ABANDON VEHICLES FOR STURDY REINFORCED STRUCTURES.

LAT...LON 3287 9750 3281 9750 3282 9724 3289 9723
TIME...MOT...LOC 0010Z 253DEG 18KT 3285 9748

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SEVERE WEATHER STATEMENT (WMO ID: WWUS54 KFWD)

DEFINITION

The Severe Weather Statement, issued by the NWS forecast Office in Fort Worth, is a brief, concise product to provide specific information on observed severe weather. It is used to describe existing severe weather or to follow up a warning.

SAMPLE SEVERE WEATHER STATEMENT

WWUS54 KFWD 290007
SVSFTW
TXZO92-290030-

SEVERE WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORT WORTH TX
605 PM CST MON MAR 28 2006

...A TORNADO WARNING CONTINUES FOR COOKE COUNTY UNTIL 630 PM CST....

AT 605 PM CST NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE METEOROLOGISTS CONTINUED TO DETECT A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM CAPABLE OF PRODUCING A TORNADO 10 MILES WEST OF GAINESVILLE...OR 3 MILES SOUTHEAST OF MÜNSTER...MOVING EAST SOUTHEAST AT ABOUT 15 MPH. SPOTTERS CONTINUE TO REPORT A FUNNEL CLOUD WITH THIS STORM. IF YOU ARE IN THE PATH TAKE COVER NOW!

SOUTHERN GAINESVILLE AND SOUTHERN LINDSAY ARE IN THE PATH OF THIS STORM.

STAY TUNED TO LOCAL MEDIA OUTLETS FOR THE LATEST SEVERE WEATHER INFORMATION.

LAT...LON 3387 9750 3381 9750 3382 9724 3389 9723
TIME...MOT...LOC 0010Z 253DEG 18KT 3385 9748

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FLOOD WATCH (WMO ID: WGUS64 KFWD)

DEFINITION

A flood watch is issued if meteorological, soil, and stream conditions indicate it is possible but not imminent that flooding will develop within a designated area; or if a possible dam break threatens life and property. The text of the watch will indicate if it is being issued for river flooding or for "flash" flooding of creeks and low water crossings. People in the watch area should check flood action plans, keep informed, and be ready to take necessary actions if a warning is issued or flooding is observed.

The flood/flash flood watch will contain...

- * The issuing office, date, and time of issuance,
- * The counties or geographical area covered by the watch (this should be described in terms of well-known river basins, counties, or portions of states),
- * The effective time of the watch expressed in terms of hours or in general terms, such as this evening,
- * The definition of "watch",
- * The extent of the hazardous condition expected, i.e., localized or widespread,
- * The severity of the hazardous condition expected; and
- * Call to action statement.

SAMPLE FLOOD WATCH

WGUS64 KFWD 220910
FLAFTW
TXZ093>97-103>112-117>126-130>138-143>153-156>167-230000

BULLETIN-IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED
FLASH FLOOD WATCH
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORT WORTH TX
420 AM CDT WED JUN 22 2006

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAS ISSUED A FLASH FLOOD WATCH FOR TODAY...FOR THAT PART OF NORTH TEXAS SOUTH AND EAST OF A SHERMAN...LAMPASAS LINE. THIS WATCH INCLUDES THE CITIES OF SHERMAN...PARIS...DALLAS/FORT WORTH...PALESTINE...AND WACO.

A NEARLY STATIONARY FRONTAL SYSTEM WHICH HAS BEEN THE FOCUS OF MODERATE TO HEAVY RAIN OVER THE PAST 24 HOURS WILL ONCE AGAIN TRIGGER HEAVY RAINS TODAY. THE RECENT DOWNPOURS HAVE LEFT THE GROUND OVER MUCH OF NORTH TEXAS SATURATED. MANY STREAMS AND RIVERS ARE AT OR NEAR BANKFULL...SO ANY ADDITIONAL RAINFALL WILL QUICKLY BECOME RUNOFF...POSSIBLY LEADING TO FLASH FLOODING.

A FLOOD WATCH MEANS THAT THE THREAT OF FLOODING EXISTS IN THE INDICATED AREA. RESIDENTS IN FLASH FLOOD PRONE AREAS SHOULD BE READY TO SEEK HIGHER GROUND IF FLASH FLOODING IS OBSERVED OR A WARNING IS ISSUED.

STAY TUNED TO NOAA WEATHER RADIO FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS POTENTIAL FLASH FLOOD EVENT.

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FLASH FLOOD WARNING (WMO ID: WGUS54 KFWD)

DEFINITION

A Flash Flood Warning is an urgent message stating that flash flooding is imminent or in progress. The warning typically focuses on specific communities, streams or areas where flooding is a threat. If you are in the warning area, take necessary precautions immediately. A warning will be issued if flooding is reported, precipitation capable of causing flooding is indicated by radar and/or satellite, if observed rainfall approaches or exceeds flash flood guidance, or a dam failure or other causative event makes flooding imminent or is reported.

The flood/flash flood warning will contain...

- * The issuing office, date, and time of issuance,
- * The time period for which the warning is effective; this shall not normally exceed 12 hours from time of issuance,
- * The communities, counties, or other geographical areas which are being or will be affected by flooding,
- * The degree of severity during a flood event should be noted when available, and
- * The location and movement of the flood-producing storm(s).

SAMPLE FLASH FLOOD WARNING

WGUS54 KFWD 221906
FFWFTW
TXC439-222200

BULLETIN-EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED
FLASH FLOOD WARNING
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORT WORTH TX
206 PM CDT SUN JUN 22 2007

* FLASH FLOOD WARNING FOR...
CENTRAL AND EASTERN TARRANT COUNTY IN NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS

* UNTIL 500 PM CST

* AT 205 PM...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE METEOROLOGISTS DETECTED
VERY HEAVY RAIN FROM SOUTHWEST FORT WORTH TO NORTH ARLINGTON. RADAR
INDICATES THAT 2 TO 4 INCHES OF RAIN HAS FALLEN...WITH ANOTHER 1 TO
3 INCHES POSSIBLE.

STORM SPOTTERS AND THE FORT WORTH FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORTED WIDESPREAD STREET
FLOODING ALONG CAMP BOWIE BOULEVARD AND HIGH WATER RESCUES ON UNIVERSITY
AVENUE WEST OF DOWNTOWN.

NEVER TRY TO CROSS FLOODED ROADWAYS AS MOST FLASH FLOODING DEATHS OCCUR IN
AUTOMOBILES. EVEN LARGE VEHICLES CAN FLOAT IN TWO FEET OF WATER.
REMEMBER...TURN AROUND...DONT DROWN.

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URBAN/SMALL STREAM FLOOD ADVISORY (WMO ID: WGUS84 KFWD)

DEFINITION

Generally, urban flooding refers to flooding of streets, low-lying areas, such as railroad underpasses and urban storm drains. Small stream flooding refers to natural streams, with the general perception referring to those streams in rural areas. Depending on the flooding situation the advisory will conform to the type of flooding being addressed (i.e., urban versus small stream). It will be issued to provide information on urban and/or small stream flooding, which is generally only an inconvenience to persons living in the affected area. However, such flooding can become a threat to life if proper safety precautions are not followed in the advisory area, or if the flooding becomes more intense. The Urban and Small Stream Advisory will contain...

- * The name of issuing office, date, and time of issuance,
- * The geographical area covered by the advisory,
- * The effective time of the advisory expressed in terms of hours or in general terms, such as this evening,
- * Location and movement of flood producing storms, and
- * Call to action statements.

SAMPLE URBAN/SMALL STREAM FLOOD ADVISORY

WGUS84 KFWD 140154
FLSFTW
TXC221-425-190230

FLOOD STATEMENT

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORT WORTH TX

727 PM CDT WED SEP 18 2006

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN FORT WORTH HAS ISSUED AN

* URBAN AND SMALL STREAM FLOOD ADVISORY FOR...
HOOD COUNTY IN NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS
SOMERVELL COUNTY IN NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS

* UNTIL 930 PM CDT

AT 720 PM CDT WEATHER SERVICE METEOROLOGISTS DETECTED AN AREA OF VERY HEAVY RAIN OVER HOOD AND SOMERVELL COUNTIES. RADAR ESTIMATES THAT 1 TO 2 INCHES HAS FALLEN OVER MUCH OF THE AREA SINCE 630 PM.

EXCESSIVE RUNOFF FROM THIS STORM WILL CAUSE FLOODING OF SMALL CREEKS AND STREAMS...COUNTRY ROADS...NORMALLY DRY WASHES...AS WELL AS FARMLAND ALONG THE BANKS OF CREEKS AND STREAMS. DO NOT DRIVE INTO AREAS WHERE WATER COVERS THE ROAD. LESS THAN TWO FEET OF WATER CAN FLOAT A VEHICLE. TURN AROUND...DONT DROWN.

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FLASH FLOOD STATEMENT (WMO ID: WGUS74 KFWD)

DEFINITION

A flash flood statement contains the latest and most detailed information on a flash flood warning. It can also be used to remove parts of the geographical area covered by the original flash flood warning when flooding is no longer a threat or has ended in a certain area, or to terminate the original flash flood warning when it is no longer valid.

A statement will not be used for the purpose of extending or adding geographical areas. A separate warning shall be issued.

SAMPLE FLASH FLOOD STATEMENT

WGUS74 KFWD 182320
FFSFTW TXC309-190145-

FLASH FLOOD STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORT WORTH TX
617 PM CDT FRI JUN 18 2006

...A FLASH FLOOD WARNING CONTINUES FOR MCLENNAN COUNTY UNTIL 845 PM CDT...

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE METEOROLOGISTS ESTIMATE THAT 2 TO 4 INCHES OF RAIN HAS FALLEN IN A ONE HOUR PERIOD ENDING AT 615 PM BETWEEN GHOLSON AND VALLEY MILLS. THE RAINFALL IS INTENSIFYING IN THIS AREA AND A DANGEROUS FLASH FLOOD SITUATION MAY BE DEVELOPING. FLOODING HAS BEEN REPORTED IN CHINA SPRING.

THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT FLASH FLOOD SITUATION. STAY AWAY FROM FLOOD-PRONE AREAS AND AREAS WHERE WATER COVERS THE ROAD. TURN AROUND...DONT DROWN. STAY TUNED TO NOAA WEATHER RADIO OR OTHER LOCAL MEDIA FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION.

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SIGNIFICANT WEATHER ADVISORY (WMO ID: WWUS84 KFWD)

The Significant Weather Advisory is an event-driven product used to discuss strong but non-severe thunderstorms, areas of enhanced freezing or frozen precipitation, or other noteworthy weather events. The Significant Weather Advisory will be written for those counties which will be impacted by the weather event during the valid time of the product. The Significant Weather Advisory will describe hydrometeorological events which will affect an area but are not enough of a hazard to warrant a specific advisory or warning. These events may include thunderstorms with heavy rain/small hail/wind gusts of 40-50 mph, storms with high lightning strike rates, locally dense fog, and strong gradient winds. County-scale events such as heavy sleet or snow bands will be discussed in the Significant Weather Advisory, while a Winter Storm Warning product will be used to discuss the large-scale elements of a winter weather event.

SAMPLE SIGNIFICANT WEATHER ADVISORY

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORT WORTH TX
641 PM CDT WED OCT 18 2006

...SIGNIFICANT WEATHER ADVISORY FOR...
SOUTHERN BELL COUNTY

AT 639 PM CDT...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE METEOROLOGISTS DETECTED A STRONG THUNDERSTORM 3 MILES NORTH OF BERTRAM...MOVING EAST AT 35 MPH. THIS STORM IS MOVING EAST AND MAY REACH SOUTHERN BELL COUNTY BY 730 PM DEPENDING ON ITS TRACK. THIS STORM HAS A HISTORY OF PRODUCING DAMAGING WINDS IN LLANO AND BURNET COUNTIES...AND BY THE TIME IT REACHES BELL COUNTY...A WARNING MAY BE REQUIRED.

CITIES IN THE PATH OF THIS STORM INCLUDE BELTON...HOLLAND...LITTLE RIVER-ACADEMY...ROGERS AND SALADO.

VERY HEAVY RAIN AND WIND GUSTS TO 50 MPH ARE LIKELY WITH THIS STORM.

HEAVY RAINFALL MAY RESULT IN FLOODING OF LOW LYING AREAS SUCH AS DITCHES AND UNDERPASSES. AVOID THESE AREAS AND DO NOT CROSS FLOODED ROADS AS THEY MAY BE WASHED OUT.

LAT...LON 3100 9789 3091 9785 3076 9731 3099 9707
3111 9714

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SHORT TERM FORECAST (WMO ID: FPUS74 KFWD)

The Short Term Forecast will be issued to describe larger-scale features which are contributing to a significant weather event. The product will describe weather features across all of north Texas. The Short Term Forecast will discuss boundaries, moisture and cloud areas, and parameters which will play a role in the weather scenario over the next 2-3 hours. Location and movement of precipitation may be discussed in general terms, but the Significant Weather Update (see below) will be used to discuss storm-scale features in detail.

SAMPLE SHORT TERM FORECASTS

SHORT TERM FORECAST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORT WORTH TX
230 PM CDT SUN APR 17 2006

<FIPS/COUNTY LISTING>

.NOW...
AT MID AFTERNOON...THE DRYLINE WAS LOCATED FROM NORTH OF JACKSBORO...TO NEAR GOLDTHWAITE...AND WAS MOVING SLOWLY EAST. AHEAD OF THE DRYLINE...TEMPERATURES HAD WARMED INTO THE MID 80S WITH DEWPOINTS NEAR 70. HOT AND DRY AIR HAD MOVED INTO WESTERN NORTH TEXAS BEHIND THE DRYLINE.

SATELLITE IMAGERY SHOWS CUMULUS CLOUDS FORMING ALONG AND JUST AHEAD OF THE DRYLINE. THIS SUGGESTS THAT THE CAP OVER NORTH TEXAS IS WEAKENING...AND THUNDERSTORMS MAY DEVELOP BY 400 PM. THE ATMOSPHERE IS VERY UNSTABLE AND STRONG WIND FIELDS ARE PRESENT... SUGGESTING THAT ANY STORMS WHICH FORM MAY EVOLVE INTO SUPERCELLS. LARGE HAIL AND DAMAGING WINDS WILL BE LIKELY...HOWEVER...STORMS WHICH DEVELOP NORTH OF THE I-20 CORRIDOR WILL BE IN AN ENVIRONMENT SLIGHTLY MORE FAVORABLE FOR TORNADOES.

SHORT TERM FORECAST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORT WORTH TX
525 PM CDT SAT JUL 9 2006

<FIPS/COUNTY LISTING>

.NOW...
LATE THIS AFTERNOON...SCATTERED TO NUMEROUS THUNDERSTORMS CONTINUED ACROSS EASTERN PORTIONS OF NORTH TEXAS...GENERALLY EAST OF I-35 AND SOUTH OF I-20. THESE STORMS ARE FORMING ON AN OUTFLOW BOUNDARY LEFT BY THE THUNDERSTORMS WHICH OCCURRED OVER NORTHEAST TEXAS LAST NIGHT. THE STORMS WERE MOVING EAST AT 20 MPH.

THE OUTFLOW BOUNDARY SHOULD CONTINUE MOVING SOUTH THROUGH THE EARLY EVENING HOURS. AS THE BOUNDARY MOVES OUT OF NORTH TEXAS... THUNDERSTORMS SHOULD GRADUALLY DIMINISH IN COVERAGE AND INTENSITY. HOWEVER...THE STORMS WILL CONTINUE TO PRODUCE LIGHTNING AND VERY HEAVY RAIN THROUGH EARLY EVENING. THIS ADDITIONAL RAINFALL MAY RESULT IN LOCALIZED FLOODING.

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WARNING DECISION UPDATE (WMO ID: FLUS74 KFWD)

The Warning Decision Update will be issued, time and resources permitting, whenever significant decisions are reached during warning operations. Early in a severe weather event, the update may contain the expected storm type, mode of storm initiation, environmental parameters, and expected initial storm movement. As the event unfolds, storm-scale information such as radar reflectivity and velocity structure, spotter observations of storm structure, and the near-storm environment may be discussed.

The Warning Decision Update will be written for our more sophisticated customers and not necessarily the general public. As such, we may include any widely-used technical language or terminology to describe the situation. We will append a glossary of frequently-used terms and abbreviations to the bottom of each product.

SAMPLE WARNING DECISION UPDATE

AREA WEATHER UPDATE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORT WORTH TX
210 PM CDT THU JUN 2 2006

...WARNING DECISION UPDATE FOR NORTH TEXAS...

MULTICELL CLUSTER STORM OVER CORYELL CO HAS DECREASED SLIGHTLY. WILL MONITOR CLOSELY AS IT CROSSES INTO MCLENNAN CO BUT WILL HOLD OFF ON WARNING FOR NOW. ENVIRONMENT AHEAD OF STORM HAS VEERED WINDS/LIMITING INFLOW BUT DECENT THERMODYNAMICS. SLOW MOVEMENT/ TRAINING OF STORMS MAY RESULT IN HEAVY RAIN TOTALS WITH LOCALIZED PONDING.

WOODALL

NOTE: THIS IS A PRODUCT MEANT TO INCREASE INFORMATION EXCHANGE ON THE STORM SCALE DURING WARNING OPERATIONS, AND MAY NOT BE ISSUED DURING EVERY WARNING EVENT.

<GLOSSARY>

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LOCAL STORM REPORT (WMO ID: NWUS54 KFWD)

DEFINITION

Local Storm Reports (LSR) relay observations about severe or other very significant events (tornadoes, hail, heavy rainfall, damaging wind, etc.) to NWS customers and adjacent offices. LSR's provide documentation of severe weather events not otherwise documented in severe weather or flood/flash flood warnings, severe weather/flash flood statements, short term forecasts. They are also issued as close to real time as possible and include...

- * type of phenomenon,
- * date/time of occurrence,
- * location of event, direction and distance (in statute miles) from a well known site,
- * source of report,
- * damage, deaths, and/or injuries (if any), and
- * any other useful information

SAMPLE LOCAL STORM REPORT

NWUS54 KFWD 012012
LSRFTW

PRELIMINARY LOCAL STORM REPORT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORT WORTH TX
312 PM CDT SAT MAY 1 2006

..TIME..	...EVENT...	...CITY LOCATION...	...LAT.LON...
..DATE..MAG....	..COUNTY LOCATION.. ST	...SOURCE....
	..REMARKS..		
0202 PM 05/01/2006	TORNADO	GRAFORD PALO PINTO TX	32.90N 98.36W NWS EMPLOYEE
BUILDING DAMAGE REPORTED			
0215 PM 05/01/2006	WIND GUST E90 MPH	STEPHENVILLE ERATH TX	32.25N 98.22W SHERIFF OFFICE
ROOF DAMAGE TO GAS STATION REPORTED			
0225 PM 05/01/2006	HAIL E2.00 INCH	MINERAL WELLS PALO PINTO TX	32.79N 98.08W EMERGENCY MNGR
0235 PM 05/01/2006	FLASH FLOOD	7 SE JACKSBORO JACK TX	33.14N 98.01W TRAINED SPOTTER
WATER TWO FEET DEEP ACROSS HIGHWAY 199			
0245 PM 05/01/2006	TSTM WND DMG	4 W ST. JO JACK TX	33.70N 97.66W TRAINED SPOTTER
SIGNS BLOWN DOWN			

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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CONTACT INFORMATION

MAILING ADDRESS

National Weather Service
3401 Northern Cross Blvd.
Fort Worth, TX 76137
(817) 429-2631

Gary Woodall
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
(817) 831-1574
gary.woodall@noaa.gov

USEFUL INTERNET SITES:

Fort Worth/Dallas Forecast Office - *warnings, forecasts, radar, and conditions for north Texas*
www.weather.gov/fortworth

Online Preparedness Information - *spotter training, safety tips, and downloadable guides*
www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/skywarn.html

NWS Southern Region Headquarters - *Links to all forecast offices in the southern U.S.*
www.srh.weather.gov/

Storm Prediction Center - *Convective outlooks and watch information across the U.S.*
www.spc.noaa.gov

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